ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

Town of Hamilton,

FOR THE

Year Ending March, 1880.

SALEM:
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1880.

Mrs. George H. Sprague
93 Bridge St.
Hamilton, Mass. 01936

REPORT.

The School Committee present the following Report of the condition and progress of the schools for the past year:—

The amount appropriated by the town for the support of schools, at the meeting in March, 1879, was $800.00. Amount received from Massachusetts school fund, $214.36; dog licenses, $72.15—making the amount to be expended for schools, $1,086.51.

Paid to teachers of summer schools, $518.75; paid to teachers of winter schools, $471.25; paid for building fires, $20.00; paid for outline maps, $36.00; allowed for fuel, $54.00. Amount, $1,100.00.

The statistics of the several schools are as follows:—

NORTH SCHOOL.

Summer Term—Teacher, Miss Jennie A. Brown.

Length of term in months	5 1-4
Wages of teacher per month	$25
Whole number of scholars	36
Average attendance	27+
Number of scholars under 5 years of age,	0
Number over 15 years of age	3
Number between 8 and 14 years of age,	29

Present every day—Joseph Dane, Charles A. Andrews, Nettie F. Andrews.

This was Miss Brown's second term in this school. She having had experience and an aptitude for teaching, has been so successful that we can speak approvingly of the school while under her instruction, because much commendation is deserved; she was faithful in her duties, and the result of her efforts was satisfactory to the Committee.

Winter Term—Teacher, Mr. George S. Swasey, of Montpelier, Vt.

Length of term in months	3 1-4
Wages of teacher per month	$45
Whole number of scholars	35
Average attendance	26+
Number of scholars under 5 years of age	0
Number over 15 years of age	3
Number between 8 and 14 years of age,	26

Present every day—Flora Tuttle, Lizzie Dane, Chas. Andrews, Nettie Andrews, Frank Dane.

Mr. Swasey, although an entire stranger, entered at once upon his duties with a determination to succeed that promised well for the school. At the closing examination, the Committee had the occasion to feel that they had been fortunate in securing the services of a teacher that proved himself so well qualified for the position assigned him. The good order was one of the noticeable characteristics of the school.

SOUTH SCHOOL.

Summer Term—Teacher, Miss Sophia F. Lovering.

Length of term in months	5
Wages of teacher per month	$25
Whole number of scholars	36

Average attendance	24+
Number of scholars under 5 years of age,	0
Number over 15 years of age	0
Number between 8 and 14 years of age,	21
Present every day	0

Winter Term—Teacher, Miss Sophia F. Lovering.

Length of term in months	3 1-4
Wages of teacher per month	$35
Whole number of scholars	23
Average attendance	17+
Number of scholars under 5 years of age,	0
Number over 15 years of age	1
Number between 8 and 14 years of age,	15

Present every day—Lottie M. Trask.

Miss Lovering has been known so long as a successful teacher, that comments seem almost to be unnecessary. She is thorough and systematic in her mode of instruction, and in discipline she has the faculty of being firm and determined in her commands, yet not harsh and unreasonable in her requirements. The scholars at the close of the summer and winter terms were very prompt and accurate in their recitations.

EAST SCHOOL.

Summer Term—Teacher, Miss Laura S. Woodbury.

Length of term in months	5 1-4
Wages of teacher per month	$25
Whole number of scholars	27
Average attendance	22
Number under 5 years of age	1
Number over 15 years of age,	0*
Number between 8 and 14 years of age,	14

Present every day—Fannie P. Knowlton.

Winter Term—Teacher, Miss Laura S. Woodbury.

Length of term in months	3 1-4
Wages of teacher	$35
Whole number of scholars	24
Average attendance	19+
Number under 5 years of age	0
Number over 15 years of age	3
Number between 8 and 14 years of age,	13

Present every day—Carrie E. Day.

The Committee were well pleased with the progress made in the various studies pursued in the school during the year. The number of visitors present at the closing examination was an indication of the interest the parents feel in the education of their children. The study of physiology had received some attention, and it is certainly desirable to know something concerning "the house we live in." The discipline has been excellent. "Money cannot measure the difference between good and poor teachers. The teacher is the school."

Aliston Butler, a bright little boy of eight years, died suddenly near the close of the winter term, making sad the hearts of his schoolmates.

WEST SCHOOL.

Summer Term—Teacher, Miss Addie Dodge.

Length of term in months	5 1-4
Wages of teacher per month	$25
Whole number of scholars	18
Average attendance	10+
Number under 5 years of age	0
Number over 15 years of age	0
Number between 8 and 14 years of age,	8

Present every day—Martha E. Dodge.

Winter Term—Teacher, Miss Addie Dodge.

Length of term in months	3 1-4
Wages of teacher	$30
Whole number of scholars	14
Average attendance	8+
Number under 5 years of age	0
Number over 15 years of age	1
Number between 8 and 14 years of age,	9
Present every day	0

The number of scholars in this school is quite small, therefore there would not naturally be so much enthusiasm as though the school were larger. But Miss Dodge has the ability of making the scholars feel a deep interest in their studies and a desire to excel. The teacher has been very earnest and thorough in instruction, and her endeavor to make the scholars think for themselves is what has made this school satisfactory to parents and committee.

A change in text books is desirable when others can be substituted that are more modern and will create a greater interest in the scholars for study. Worcester's Speller, which is far superior, has been substituted for the Union Speller.

According to the "school laws" in regard to the expenditure of the Massachusetts school fund, the School Committee are at liberty at any time during the year to expend an amount of money not exceeding twenty-five per cent. of the school fund, for the purchase of books of reference, maps, and apparatus for the use of schools. Accordingly, the School Committee have placed upon the walls of each school room a very neat set of "Mitchell's Outline Maps." They are not only useful in assisting the scholars in the study of geography, and making the school-room more attrac-

tive, but ornamental, taking away much of the bareness of the school-room, so perceptible to every visitor.

In accordance with a feeling expressed by many of our citizens, that female teachers should be employed in our winter schools, and the Committee being satisfied that they would be successful, they have employed female teachers in three of our schools during the winter terms. Teachers employed having taught in the same schools during the summer terms, were by their previous acquaintance with the schools prepared to commence the winter terms without any interruption incident to the employment of a new teacher, and the result of employing the same teachers for the year has been advantageous to the schools.

The Committee being fortunate in securing teachers, not only competent to instruct, but of excellent moral qualities, therefore they are more impressed with the importance of employing teachers who are qualified to teach by example, as well as to give instruction, for it is true, as good order must in a great degree determine the success in the school room, so a good moral character is needful for the best development and success of a sound education.

It is gratifying to the Committee, that in their plans and endeavors to promote the best interests of the schools, they have succeeded to such a degree as to have the schools in such a condition that there has been no occasion for complaint in regard to teachers or the schools.

OSCAR F. WHIPPLE,
JOSEPH P. LOVERING,
OTIS F. BROWN,
} School Committee.

Hamilton, March, 1880.